



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD AGENDA

Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 6:00pm

Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street

White River Junction, VT 05001

This meeting was conducted in person at Town Hall

Present: Michael Hoyt, Chair; Kim Souza, Vice-Chair; Mary Erdei, Clerk; Susan Buckholz, Member; Brandon Smith, Member; Ida Griesemer, Member; John Haverstock; Matt Osborn; Jonathan Schechtman; Scott Cooney; Tish Owens; Jason Owens; Chris Dolan

Present on Zoom: Lannie Collins, Member; Lana Livingston;

JAM Link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/G4kGzqKzFD8?si=Q-TGcotYTF1r92p7>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting by Chair, Mike Hoyt at 6:02 PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by John Haverstock.
- III. Local Liquor Control Board- None
- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board: Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt recessed the Selectboard meeting and opened the Local Cannabis Control Board.

- a. **Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to approve the #S-000010043 VVS Farms Tier 2 New Application S-000010043, Indoor Cultivator Tier 2. Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Selectboard Chair, Mike Hoyt closed the Local Cannabis Control Board and reopened the Selectboard Meeting.

- V. Order of Agenda: There were no changes to the order of agenda.
- VI. Selectboard

1. Public Comment: None

2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements

Mary Erdei noted that yesterday was a special day for Indigenous people.

Lannie Collins is zooming in tonight because he is home for medical reasons.

3. Appointments

- a. **Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to approve the NEW Appointment of Holly Henderson to the Hartford Conservation Commission for a four-year term beginning October 15, 2024 and ending October 14, 2028. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

4. Town Manager's Report

Budgeting Process and Town Meeting Planning

Budget season is in full swing. The Town Manager and Finance Director have met with all Department Heads to discuss their budget proposals for FY 2026. The Town Manager and Finance Director will review these proposed budgets and try to identify unbudgeted revenues and cost savings before they are presented to the Selectboard.

Clerical Worker Unionization

It appears that a number of Town clerical workers have reached out to AFSCME Council 93 to establish a collective bargaining unit. These are early days, so stay tuned for updates as this process unfolds.

Wright's Dam Meeting

On Friday, October 11, the Town Manager and Parks & Recreation Director welcomed several engineers to Town and took them on a site visit to Wright's Dam to solicit their ideas about possible paths forward to either (a) partially or fully rehabilitate the Dam on the one hand or (b) dismantle or "breach" the Dam, on the other.

Fairview Terrace and Gates Street Project Bond Vote

On October 29, coincident with the next Selectboard meeting, there will be a Public Hearing, led by the Town Manager and the Department of Public Works, on the \$4,100,000 Fairview Terrace and Gates

Street highway and retention wall project which appears as a November 5 bond vote ballot item. Meanwhile, DPW has generated a project FACT SHEET, which will be posted and disseminated to the community.

Significant Activity Reports: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=495>

5. Board Reports, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Historic Preservation Commission Presentation by Jonathan Schechtman, Chair of the Historical Preservation Commission.
- b. Designate Code Number for Dilapidated Building Ordinance. Presented by Fire Chief, Scott Cooney.
Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to assign Chapter 100 to the Dilapidated Building Ordinance in the Code of the Town of Hartford, VT. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- c. Designate Deputy Building Safety Officers. Presented by Fire Chief, Scott Cooney.
Selectboard Member, Brandon Smith made the motion to appoint Deputy Fire Marshal Amy Jerome and Alan Beebe as Deputy Building Safety Officers. Selectboard Vice Chair Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- d. Transfer Reserves for Fire Marshal Vehicle. Presented by Fire Chief, Scott Cooney.
Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to authorize the Town Manager to transfer funds from the Fire/Ambulance Reserve account for the purchase of a plug-in/hybrid vehicle from White River Toyota for the fire department. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- e. Review Bids for Cardiac Monitor(s) for Fire Department. Presented by Fire Chief, Scott Cooney. This item was tabled until a future meeting later in the budget cycle.
- f. Approve Proposal to Establish Railroad Weathervane Steering Committee. Presented by Town Manager, John Haverstock.

It was decided the John Haverstock will contact the State to see if handing this over to the Hartford Historical Preservation Commission (HHPC) will meet their criteria. Jonathan Schechtman, Chair of the HHPC, was at this meeting and he would happily work on this project with the HHPC.

- g. Adopt Selectboard Budget Calendar
The updated calendar was distributed to the Selectboard.

VII. Commission Reports

HCOREI still has one vacancy- a student Liaison. A new Vice-Chair was elected by the commission for **HCOREI** and is member Susan Mullens.

Julia Lau met with the commission to discuss the District Equity Committee Work. Julia is the Hartford District Equity Coordinator. The goals for the Hartford School District for '24-'25 are:

1) Increase knowledge of 2 HSD Policies (Anti-Racism and Gender Inclusivity) and how to implement them at the classroom, school and district levels

2) Begin Phase 1 of Restorative Practices through Advisory and Meeting Circles

3) Begin writing a policy/resources centered around neurodiversity and disabilities

***Restorative Practices training was held on Sept 25 & 26 for HSD staff (20) across the district and will continue 7 more times throughout the year.

Meeting frequency and times were discussed and we are working on a trial period of operating once per month during busy months and 2x during months that are not as busy, and the meetings will be moved to 7pm rather than 6 pm. Think about budgetary needs as the season is upon us.

Hartford Conservation Commission

One guest from HACTC (Erika Schneider) discussed continuing the forestry educational partnership with them and informing the Commission of a new instructor with the program, Dan Gibson.

Several members from the Vermont Law and Graduate School were in attendance discussing Environmental Advocacy hoping to renew the agreement with HCC by the end of the calendar year. (Restoration and Invasives)

Discussion of the budget was an important part of the meeting, primarily because the costs that are going up in the budget are as a result of the amounts collected on Green Up Day. The HCC was over budget by \$300. The areas of concern are additional items that end up in the dumpster that are not supposed to be there, which means a surcharge and, as noted before, the higher costs of tires that must be disposed of since costs have risen from app. \$5/tire to \$15/tire. The Commission moved to use funds from other areas of the budget that have not been used to address this issue for now. More to be discussed later.

Family Forest Frolic with Sky Claud on 10/12/24 at 10 pm in Hurricane Forest
Hartford Community Coalition Block Party at Lyman Park, 10/18/24 at 3:30-5:45.

Planning Commission

On October 7th, the Planning Commission held a Public Hearing and approved an application by the Good Neighbor Health Clinic for a "Harm Reduction Vending Machine", and for a subdivision on the corner of Jericho Street and Newton Lane.

- VIII. Consent Agenda: **Selectboard Clerk, Mary Erdei made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Approve Payroll Ending: 10/12/2024

Approve A/P Manifest of: 10/11/24 & 10/15/2024

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 10/1/2024

Future Meetings: 10/29/2024; 11/12/2024; 11/14/2024 (Budget Meeting);
11/19/2024 (Budget Meeting); & 11/26/2024

- IX. Executive Session: **Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to find that there are legal matters involving the Town and premature general public knowledge would clearly place the Town and/or persons at a substantial disadvantage**

And

that the Selectboard go into executive session to discuss a pending legal matter in which the Town is involved and attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional service, as set forth in 1 V.S.A. Section 3133(a) (E) and (F).

Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to go into executive session to discuss an evaluation of a Town employee, pursuant to V.S.A. Section 3133 (a) (E). Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mike Hoyt moved to come out of Executive session at 8:19 pm and Sue Buckholz second the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Mary Erdei moved that the Selectboard ratify the settlement of Little Tree v Town of Hartford, with the only financial contribution from the Town being its deductible of \$1000.00 with the remainder of the funds for the settlement being the amount paid by the Vermont League of Cities

and Towns' Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF), \$21,500.00, that the Town issue a letter to Little Tree in the form negotiated and agreed to by the parties, and to authorize Town Manager John Haverstock to sign any necessary documents. Second by Sue Buckholz. Vote was unanimous.

- X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting
Selectboard Vice Chair, Kim Souza made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. Selectboard Member, Sue Buckholz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary K. Ender", written over a horizontal line.

Mary Ender, Clerk

Selectboard Meeting October 15, 2024